

Glenda Wiles

From: David Claman [dclaman@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 31, 2007 6:25 PM
To: r1_bitterroot_comments@fs.fed.us; coliver01@fs.fed.us
Cc: Glenda Wiles; bitterrootclimbers@gmail.com
Subject: Attn: Darby Ranger District re: Lost Horse Gravel Quarry

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AUG 01 2007

Ravalli County Commissioners

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Dear Mr. Oliver:

I would like to state my opposition to the Forest Service's plans to reopen the Lost Horse quarry for gravel extraction. I have worked professionally in outdoor recreational and resource management for the City of Missoula for the last five years. I have a bachelor's and a Master's in Landscape Architecture. In addition I am a commercial stonewall builder and a rock climber.

I think that the Forest Service needs to look at implementing a Limits of Acceptable Change process for this drainage if they have not all ready. I find it hard to believe that this past rock extraction would trump current recreational and residential safety and aesthetics if put to the process.

Further, I see no mention of alternative quarry sites, either hardrock or riverine. I understand the environmental constraints with opening new quarries but I think out of respect to public process, alternatives should be explored.

I think the safety aspects have been trivialized. I doubt if Montana Mine Safety and Health Administration would allow recreational activities anywhere in the vicinity of an active quarry. I have visited several hardrock quarries in the last 2 months and they do not allow the general public in due to safety concerns. Also, I do not think that the access issues at highway 93 have been addressed. This is a dangerous intersection for a passenger vehicle let alone a fully loaded dump truck.

Thank you for your concern for public process. I hope you reconsider this project and find an alternative site for gravel.

Sincerely,

David Claman
 808 Cherry Street
 Missoula, MT 59802

8/1/2007